

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8302

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

S E C R E T BRIDGETOWN 0094

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PDEV XL BB

SUBJ: CARIBBEAN SUB-REGIONAL CASP

REF: UNDATED TRANSMITTAL SLIP FROM ARA/CAR (HIGH)

1. COUNTRY TEAM BELIEVES THAT, GIVEN MANY COMMON PROBLEMS OF CARIBBEAN AREA, CASP SERVES USEFUL PURPOSE AND CONCURS IN PRESENT DRAFT TO LARGE DEGREE. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT ENTIRELY AGREE WITH EITHER ASSUMPTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ISSUE ONE OR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ISSUE THREE AND, WITH REGARD TO ISSUE FIVE, HAVE DOUBTS AS TO PRACTICABILITY OF POLICY OF ENCOURAGING POLITICAL INTEGRATION IN THE AREA.

2. RE ASSUMPTIONS OF ISSUE ONE, IT IS NO DOUBT TRUE THAT MANY - WE WOULD EVEN SAY MOST - CARIBBEAN LEADERS BELIEVE THE U. S. TENDS TO IGNORE THE REGION AND RESENT WHAT THEY REGARD AS CAVALIER TREATMENT ON OUR PART. NEVERTHELESS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS PERCEPTION OF NEGLECT IS UNDERLYING CAUSE FOR THE UNFAVORABLE ATTITUDES OF SOME LEADERS TOWARDS THE U. S. RATHER, IT SEEMS TO US (AND, BY AND LARGE, WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT LEADERS IN SECRET

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BARBADOS, GRENADA OR THE WIAS), SUCH ATTITUDES STEM FROM PERCEIVED AFFINITY WITH THE THIRD WORLD, BASED ON RACIAL TIES, PHILOSOPHICAL OUTLOOK, SHARED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS, AND LACK OF AFFINITY WITH THE U.S. IF THIS ANALYSIS IS ACCURATE, INCREASED ATTENTION ON OUR PART (BY WHATEVER MEANS) CAN PROBABLY DO NO MORE THAN MITIGATE THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF UNFAVORABLE ATTITUDES AND IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE ANY REAL SUCCESS IN CHANGING THE ATTITUDES THEMSELVES. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT WE THINK THE EFFORT IS NOT WORTH MAKING -- ON THE CONTRARY, WE WOULD HEARTILY SUPPORT NEW INITIATIVES -- BUT ONLY TO SUGGEST THAT, IN OUR VIEW, THE CASP MAKES THE PROBLEM SEEM LESS INTRACTABLE THAN WE BELIEVE IT TO BE.

3. INSOFAR AS RECOMMENDATIONS THIS ISSUE ARE CONCERNED, WE HAVE SOME MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL FOR MORE HIGHLEVEL CONTACTS. WE BELIEVE THAT INCREASED CONTACTS ARE, INDEED, DESIRABLE, BUT UNLESS THEY LEAD TO CONCRETE RESULTS IN SUCH AREAS AS DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE AND IMMIGRATION POLICIES THEY WILL RESULT ULTIMATELY ONLY IN GREATER DISSATISFACTION WITH U.S. POLICIES. ALREADY THERE IS CRITICISM IN THE CARIBBEAN TO THE EFFECT THAT, IN DEALING WITH THE NATIONS OF THE AREA, USG OFTEN USES TALK AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR ACTION.

4. WHILE SUPPORTING THE RECOMMENDATION THAT INCREASED FUNDS SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR CULTURAL AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, WE NOTE THAT AT PRESENT THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME QUESTION WHETHER SUCH PROGRAMS CAN EVEN BE MAINTAINED AT PRESENT LEVELS.

5. RE ISSUE THREE RECOMMENDATION, IT SEEMS TO US IT WOULD BE MORE LOGICAL TO PHASE OUT OUR BILATERAL PROGRAMS IN THE CARIBBEAN, AT LEAST THOSE IN GUYANA AND JAMAICA, AND INCREASE OUR SUPPORT TO REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ESPECIALLY THE CDB. LEADERS FROM BARBADOS AND SMALL ISLAND STATES HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY TWO COUNTRIES WHICH ARE MUCH BETTER OFF THAN ANY OF THE SMALLER ISLANDS (AND, MOREOVER, WHICH ARE LESS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE U.S.) RECEIVE BILATERAL AID, WHILE BARBADOS AND LESS DEVELOPED ISLANDS HAVE TO CONTENT THEMSELVES WITH WHAT THE CDB PROVIDES. WE ALSO HAVE DOUBTS AS TO THE WISDOM OF ESTABLISHING A SMALL AID OFFICE HERE. UNLESS USG IS PREPARED TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY ITS CONTRIBUTION TO CDB AND TO INCREASE AID TO REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS UWI, OR TO SEEK MEMBERSHIP IN CDB, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHAT SUCH AN OFFICE COULD ACCOMPLISH THAT IS NOT BEING SECRET

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ACCOMPLISHED UNDER EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS. MOREOVER, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH AN OFFICE WOULD CERTAINLY INCREASE PRESSURE ON US TO DO MORE.

6. FINALLY, RE RECOMMENDATION ISSUE FIVE, AS NOTED ABOVE, WE

THINK POLITICAL INTERGRATION OF AREA IS A DEAD ISSUE FOR THE
FORESEEABLE FUTURE. AS WE HAVE JUST REPORTED (BTN A-004) EVEN
SO ARDENT AN ADVOCATE OF INTEGRATION AS ST. LUCIA'S PREMIER COMPTON
SEES LITTLE HOPE THAT HIS COUNTRY CAN COME TO INDEPENDENCE IN
ASSOCIATION WITH ANY OF ITS NEIGHBORS AND INTENDS TO LEAD IT TO
INDEPENDENCE ON ITS OWN. OUR READING OF THE PRESENT SITUATION
IN THIS AREA IS THAT, BY 1980, FOUR AND POSSIBLY FIVE NEW MINI-
STATES WILL HAVE EMERGED.
SIMMS

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